

BOOK REVIEW

Gleason's Plants of Michigan: A Field Guide revised by Richard K. Rabeler. 1998 [corrected second printing February, 2001]. 398 pp. illus. ISBN 0-9663251-0-9 \$24.95 (Kivar[®] wear- and tear-resistant softcover). Oakleaf Press, Ann Arbor, MI.

This field guide is designed as a quick reference for the identification of the flowering plants and gymnosperms of Michigan. All the species in a particular genus are not keyed out, but the major ones are. The author indicates that plants in cultivation and those from difficult families are omitted, deferring to Voss's three-volume treatment of the flora of Michigan. The keys are intended to be used in the field, so the characters presented can be seen with the unaided eye or with a hand lens and a centimeter scale. The scale is provided at the back of the book.

There is a key to the four main groups of plants: trees, shrubs, or woody vines; unusual plants, including many aquatic plants; monocots; and herbaceous dicots. These keys eventually lead one to a plant family. Each family has a short description and then a key to the various genera. At the end of the key there is a designation as to where that taxon is to be found in the state. The acronyms for these regions are located on a map of Michigan.

There is an extensive bibliography of cited works and a list of other books useful in the identification of Michigan plants. There is a very useful section explaining the terminology used in the book, with accompanying line drawings. There are a number of illustrations, often depicting some special characteristic. Most taxa are not illustrated.

This is a very handy field guide, being a convenient size ($4\frac{3}{4} \times 8$ in.) to take in the field. The book is designed for persons having some background in plant identification; knowledge of the use of keys will help. This is a great field or lab key for the beginning student in a flora course, since it does not rely on illustrations. Most species that are commonly encountered in the field are covered. This book will be of use to anyone in north-eastern North America. I will consider requiring this for use in my plant systematics course.

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